

REMARKS

Claims 11, 22, 30, 40, 62 and 85, all independent, remain pending in this application.

Request for Status on Petition To Correct Inventorship

Applicants filed a Petition To Correct Inventorship Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(a) on July 20, 2000 to add co-inventor Ludwig B. Chincarini. A declaration and power of attorney executed by both inventors was filed with this petition.

Applicants have not yet received a decision on this petition, and therefore request its status.

Claims 11, 22, 30, 40, 62 and 85 Are Allowable

The Office objected to claims 11, 22, 30, 40, 62 and 85 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that each claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite allowance, Applicants, in accordance with the Office's remarks, have amended claims 11, 22, 30, 40, 62 and 85 to rewrite them in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Further, Applicants have canceled rejected claims 1-10, 12-21, 23-29, 31-39, 41-61, 63-84 and 86-87 without prejudice, notwithstanding Applicants continuing disagreement with the Office over the nature of the corresponding rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection and allowance of claims 11, 22, 30, 40, 62 and 85 is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is in clear condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

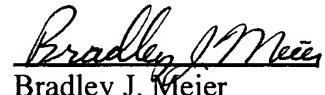
The Office is authorized to charge the one-month small entity extension of time fee of \$60.00 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600. A copy of this page is provided for this purpose.

Although not believed necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4200 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 19, 2005


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